



GAO

Accountability • Integrity • Reliability

United States Government Accountability Office
Washington, DC 20548

October 3, 2005

The Honorable John Conyers, Jr.
Ranking Minority Member
Committee on the Judiciary
House of Representatives

Dear Mr. Conyers:

Thank you for your letter of April 14, 2005, jointly signed by a number of your colleagues, asking the Government Accountability Office to review the impact of Public Law 109-2, the Class Action Fairness Act of 2005.

As Mr. Norman J. Rabkin, Managing Director, Homeland Security and Justice, discussed with representatives of the House Committee on the Judiciary, the data needed to assess the Act's potential impacts do not exist and reliable data to assess the potential impacts cannot be generated in a timely manner, even if GAO were to attempt to collect original data. For these reasons, as discussed with Ms. Michone Johnson and Ms. Stacey Dansky, we must decline your request at this time. Mr. Rabkin suggested that you may wish to ask the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts or the Federal Judicial Center to collect data and compile statistics on class action cases.

If you would like to discuss this further, please contact me or Mr. Ralph Dawn, Assistant Director for Congressional Relations, at 202-512-4544.

Sincerely yours,

Gloria L. Jarmon
Managing Director for
Congressional Relations

Ref: CCAR 05-0641